

## United States Senate

October 21, 2020

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
45 L Street, N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

It is my understanding that AST&Science (AST) has filed a request seeking U.S. market access through a Petition for Declaratory Ruling, as amended, which the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) placed on public comment on October 2, 2020.

I am writing in support of AST's application. AST's innovative low-Earth orbit (LEO) satellite constellation, called SpaceMobile, will bring important new wireless network options to U.S. citizens at a time when our nation faces an increasing reliance on mobile connectivity.

AST's SpaceMobile technology creates "cell towers" in space that will deliver a direct broadband connection to American's existing, unmodified 5G and LTE devices, bypassing the need to be near traditional ground-based cellular towers. This groundbreaking technology will allow us to overcome longstanding geographic and economic challenges that have made it difficult, costly, and at times, physically impossible to provide broadband speed wireless connectivity to our hardest to reach areas.

SpaceMobile will also increase the resiliency of our nation's critical infrastructure and provide a life-saving back-up communications service during times of national emergency and natural disasters, when ground infrastructure is often vulnerable to damage and extended outages.

Additionally, AST is a U.S.-based company, controlled by U.S. citizens, with no foreign government ownership or control. AST's satellites are being constructed at AST's corporate headquarters and manufacturing plant at the Midland International Air and Space Port in Midland, Texas.

As the U.S. continues its efforts to lead the world in deploying next generation 5G mobile broadband networks, we must do all we can to support U.S. small business innovation like AST's SpaceMobile. I strongly support timely, favorable action on AST's market access filing to accelerate and expand wireless connectivity to unserved and underserved areas across the country.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue and your commitment to connecting the unconnected.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz  
United States Senator